

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following listing of the claims. Please note that in the amendments to the claims, deletions are indicated by strikethrough (e.g. ~~deletion~~) or double brackets (e.g. [[word]]) and additions to the claims are underlined (e.g. addition).

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for orienting a bridge in position relative to a dental implant, the method comprising:

coupling a first sleeve-shaped part of a spacer member to the dental implant using a screw;

guiding an inner surface of a first portion of a second sleeve-shaped part against an outer surface of the first sleeve-shaped part;

rotating the screw to expand at least a portion of the first sleeve-shaped part such that the outer surface of the first sleeve-shaped part expands against the inner surface of the first portion of the second sleeve-shaped part to secure the second sleeve-shaped part to the first sleeve-shaped part;

attaching a bridge to a second portion of the second sleeve-shaped part;

rotating the screw to loosen the second sleeve-shaped part from the first sleeve-shaped part of the spacer member; and

removing the bridge along with the second sleeve-shaped part with the first sleeve-shaped part remaining attached to the implant.

2. **(Previously Presented)** An arrangement for orienting a bridge in position relative to a dental implant, the arrangement comprising:

a spacer member configured to cooperate with the dental implant to provide position orientation through cooperation with fastening members arranged in the bridge, wherein the spacer member comprises first and second sleeve-shaped parts, the first sleeve-shaped part being attachable to the dental implant using a screw, the screw being rotatable to cause expansion of at least a portion of the first sleeve-shaped part, the second sleeve-shaped part comprising an inner surface configured to mate against an

outer surface of the first sleeve-shaped part such that the second sleeve-shaped part is secured to the first sleeve-shaped part;

wherein the outer surface of the first sleeve-shaped part is expanded against the inner surface of the second sleeve-shaped part upon expansion of the at least a portion of the first-sleeve shaped part for securing the second sleeve-shaped part to the first sleeve-shaped part; and

wherein the second sleeve-shaped part comprises a portion that engages with a fastening member of the bridge for separating the second sleeve-shaped part from securement with the first sleeve-shaped part.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part has a length substantially corresponding to a thickness of a soft tissue or a gum on the jaw bone, in which the respective dental implant is applied.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part can be arranged in relation to and can cooperate with fibers of the gingiva.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part cooperates with the dental implant via an upper flange surface on the dental implant.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the second sleeve-shaped part has a lower sleeve-shaped portion which can be engaged on an upper portion of the first sleeve-shaped part.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as claim 2, wherein the second sleeve-shaped part has a first part which can cooperate with the first sleeve-shaped part, and a second part which is narrower in relation to the first part and which supports the portion cooperating with a fastening member.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 7, wherein the first and second upper parts merge on the outside via an inclined outer surface which adjoins the top surface of the soft tissue or gum.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 8, wherein the narrowed part is included in a narrowed bridge construction.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 9, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part for the respective implant can be anchored to the implant, and the first and second

parts can be mutually guided in relation to one another by an internal screw with a head which extends, in the assembled state, substantially level with the inclined upper surface.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the width of a second part of the second sleeve-shaped part is a diameter that is less than a diameter of the first sleeve-shaped part.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the width of a second part of the second sleeve-shaped part is approximately 70% of the width of a first part of the second sleeve-shaped part.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the second sleeve-shaped part comprises a plurality of protrusions along an outer surface thereof for engaging fastening members of a bridge.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method as in claim 1, wherein assembling the first sleeve-shaped part further comprises expanding the first sleeve-shaped part to engage the inner surface of the first portion of the second sleeve-shaped part.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method as in claim 14, wherein expanding the first sleeve-shaped part comprises expanding the first sleeve-shaped part by rotating the screw.

16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part comprises a cone-shaped surface configured to contact a cone-shaped surface of a head of the screw such that movement of the screw into the implant upon rotation causes expansion of at least a portion of the first sleeve-shaped part.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 17, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part comprises at least one longitudinal slot for facilitating expansion of the at least a portion of the first sleeve-shaped part.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 18, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part comprises a plurality of longitudinal slots for facilitating expansion of the at least a portion of the first sleeve-shaped part.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the first sleeve-shaped part comprises a lower sleeve-shaped portion that surrounds an upper portion of the implant.

Application No.: 10/584,426
Filing Date: May 23, 2007

21. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement as in claim 20, wherein the lower sleeve-shaped portion of the first sleeve-shaped part abuts the upper portion of the implant.